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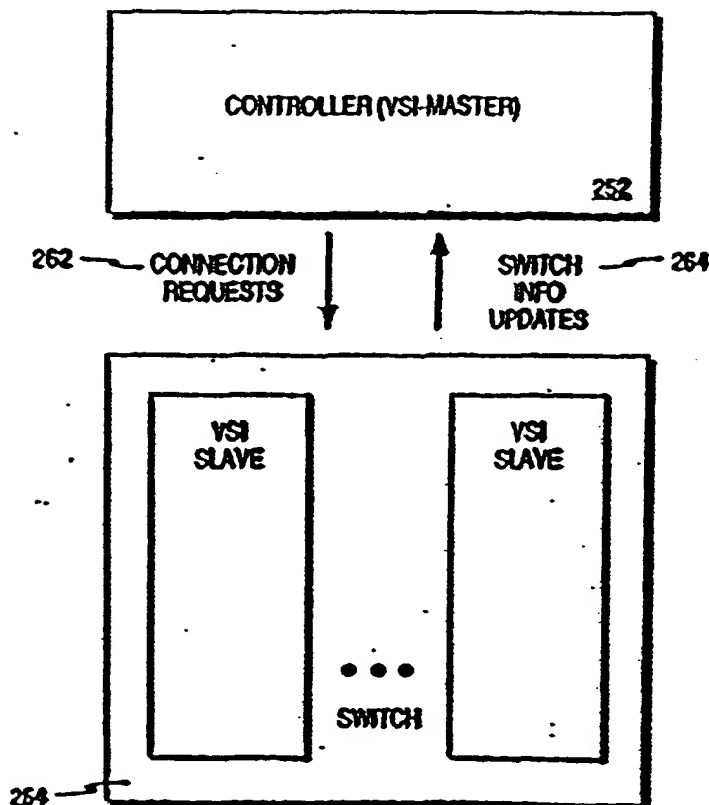
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Title: A CONNECTION CONTROL INTERFACE FOR MULTISERVICE SWITCHES

## Abstract

A connection control interface for a network is provided. The connection control interface allows the multiservice switch to provide a number of switch resource partitions to a number of independent controllers coupled to the switch. Switch resource partitions comprise a series of subsets of switch resources that are a number of independent subsets of a physical network. The connection control interface allows the independent controllers to control the connections on a switch using the number of switch resource partitions. The independent controllers each use one of a number of control systems comprising network software level. The independent controllers comprise a virtual switch architecture having a master component and a slave component where the master and slave components may be hosted on different processors. The slave components may be hosted on a control card that contains a number of port cards of the switch and a port card processor. The switch synchronizes the independent controllers are resynchronized when discrepancies are detected between the connections on the switch and expected by the each of the plurality independent controllers.



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